UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/26639
27 October 1993
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 26 OCTOBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NIGER TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit the official statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Niger on the situation in Burundi, and I should be grateful if you would have the text circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Adamou SEYDOU
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Official statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Niger

Niger is following with grave concern the tragic events taking place in Burundi, an African country which is both a friend and a brother and to which it is linked by excellent relations of cooperation.

Respectful of the free choice of peoples and committed to a swift and peaceful evolution of the African continent towards the creation of democratic societies, Niger strongly condemns the military coup d'état in Burundi aimed at overthrowing by brutal force and barbarism the legitimate Government of President Melchior Ndadaye, which was installed last June by the clearly expressed will of the people of Burundi following democratic and open elections.

The action perpetrated is an anachronism at a time when the democratic ideal is making tremendous headway world wide, particularly on the African continent, bringing with it enormous hope for peoples who have experienced so much suffering and who today aspire to build new societies, founded on justice and freedom, which are capable of creating peace and progress for the benefit of all their members.

In these difficult hours, Niger expresses solidarity with all the democratic forces of Burundi and emphasizes that it is the bounden duty of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the United Nations, Africa and the international community to take the necessary measures to restore constitutional legitimacy in Burundi. In this context, Niger lends its full support to the Government of Burundi in exile which embodies that legitimacy.